

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to inclement weather in the Sixth District.

On Monday December 11, 2007, I missed rollcall votes 1142, 1143, and 1144. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

**TRIBUTE TO DICKEY LEE
HULLINGHORST**
HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst. This month Dickey Lee is retiring as the intergovernmental relations director for Boulder County, Colorado, after nearly 23 years of public service. Her dedication, energy, insight and collaborative spirit will be greatly missed.

In 1985, Dickey Lee became the intergovernmental affairs director for Boulder County. In this capacity, she provided policy analysis to the county commissioners and other county officials, while also communicating and working with other governmental offices throughout the Denver metro area, the Colorado State legislature, State and Federal agencies, and the Colorado congressional delegation. With Dickey Lee in this position, these officials, offices and agencies were kept apprised of what was happening in the county and were consulted on important policy issues.

Dickey Lee also brought her expertise and collaborative, professional approach to various regional committees, such as Boulder County's Consortium of Cities, Open Space Task Force, Solid Waste Task Force, Regional Transportation Task Force, and Regional Transit Committee.

Prior to her service to Boulder County, Dickey Lee gained a broad range of experience. She was a senior vice president at Herrick S. Roth Associates, a public policy consulting firm in Denver. She was legislative affairs director for the Colorado Open Space Council, which was later renamed Colorado Environmental Coalition. And she was a computer programmer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, here in Washington, DC.

She was also involved in many community activities, serving on the board of directors or advisory committees of Colorado Open Lands (also a founding member and treasurer), EcoCycle (the main recycling organization in Boulder), the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, Political Action for Conservation, Boulder County Healthy Communities Steering Committee, Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board, Plan Boulder County, City of Boulder Blue Ribbon Commission on Revenue Stability, currently serving, and Boulder County Mental Health Center, currently serving.

Her energy and skills were also recognized by Colorado's governors, who appointed her to serve on the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, the Front Range Project Steering Committee and to co-chair the Patterns of Development Committee and Open Space Task Force, and the Metropolitan Water Roundtable.

Her work and involvement in these important community activities—as well as other significant initiatives—have been acknowledged with numerous awards including: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Quality of Life Award for her role in helping to pass the Colorado Clean Air Act and the inspection and maintenance program for emissions from automobiles; EcoCycle's "Volunteer Oscar" for her work on recycling initiatives; the Boulder County Democratic Party's "Give 'em Hell Harry" award; the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Metro Vision First Place award for her role in the development of the Boulder County "Super IGA," an intergovernmental agreement among the municipalities in Boulder County and Boulder County on growth boundaries and rural preservation; the National Association of Counties intergovernmental cooperation award, also for the "Super IGA;" and DRCOG's Local Government Collaboration Gold Award for her role in the development of the Louisville/Boulder County/Colorado Highway 42 Revitalization Commission Urban Renewal Intergovernmental Agreement.

In addition, Dickey Lee has been active in politics in Boulder County. She has been very involved with the Democratic Party and has helped bring a level of common sense and grounded perspective to her political activities.

Dickey Lee has been one of those who composes the "backbone" of community life. She works hard and with a true respect for what government can and should do to make people's lives better and help make government work better. Her accomplishments and record of service stand as a model for what a true public servant can do and how they should conduct themselves—with decorum, respect and dedication to the common good.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dickey Lee for all that she has done for the people of Colorado, Boulder County, and the city of Boulder. I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RITA
ENGLE WELLS**
HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rita Engle Wells a resident of the First District, who died November 28 of this year.

Mrs. Wells was a pillar of her community and cornerstone of her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Randy and two daughters Ashley and Rachelle. She was active in the youth ministry as a member of Solomon Lutheran Church.

She loved life and shared that with the children at East View Elementary School, where she was a second-grade teacher. Her kindness for others showed on a daily basis.

Mrs. Wells was well respected by her students, colleagues, and parents as an admired educator. She had been described as a 'light of love' to those around her.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring the life of Rita Engle Wells, a loving wife and mother, a true servant in her community, and a compassionate educator, whose commitment and unwavering determination will be greatly missed throughout East Tennessee.

**ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a step in the wrong direction. Our current focus should be on rebalancing our energy portfolio and responsibly accessing and managing our domestic energy resources to decrease our dependence on foreign countries. This legislation does not improve our energy security in any way. The included Renewable Fuel Standard mandates biofuel production levels which increase our Nation's dependence on the same supply source for both our energy and our food. Basing laws on unavailable technologies and taxing the industry that actually provides energy to the country now, does nothing to decrease our dependence on foreign countries' oil and gas.

I offered an amendment to strike the manufactured language in Sect. 413 of the bill. The bill in its current form would have detrimental effects on the industry, which is a significant contributor to the Indiana economy, and it would undoubtedly result in higher manufactured home prices for consumers.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has an ongoing stakeholder process to improve energy efficiency of manufactured housing. The HUD process strives for cost-effective efficiency standards that add real value for consumers and keep the overall product affordable. Section 413 would inject the Department of Energy into the process. Consumers and manufacturers fear that DOE's "price-is-no-object" track record on efficiency standards will mean that manufactured housing will be priced out of the lower and moderate income markets, harming consumers and costing jobs in the industry. Meanwhile, it will not help energy efficiency since the alternative, stick-built homes, have no national energy standards. Improving the energy efficiency of homes is important, and it is necessary that these efforts take into account cost criteria as well. The manufactured housing industry is already working to meet efficiency standards previously legislated in the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000. This energy bill's manufactured housing language would only add confusion by creating a duplicative program while simultaneously increasing the price of housing.

At a time when the United States' housing market is unsettled, Congress should be making use of every opportunity to assist the average American in their dream of homeownership. This energy bill would make an affordable housing option unaffordable for many Americans.